

**Tompkins County Youth Services Board
February 22, 2021 Minutes
Meeting via ZOOM.**

Present: Patty Van de Bogart, Khaki Wunderlich, Ronny Hardaway, Tamer Elshourbagy, Marnie Kirchgessner, Ian Schachner, Lisa Monroe, Glenn Morey, Sara Watrous

Excused: Lisa Campbell

Absent: Magdalena Smith, Jennifer Foote-Dean,

Staff: Kate Shanks-Booth, Theresa Albert, Meghan Lyons

Guest: Pat Buechel (pending board approval)

Meeting called to order at 5:04 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Welcome to Meghan Lyons, newly hired Coordinator of Community Youth Services. Bridgette is officially on maternity leave; John Henry was born on February 15th.

Approval of Minutes

Due to a lack of quorum, the vote on the approval of the November/December and January minutes will be tabled to the March meeting.

Membership Approval

Due to a lack of quorum, again the Board was not able to officially approve the application of Pat Buechel to join the Board as an At-large member. This vote will be tabled until the March meeting.

Melissa Perry, Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Program, Child Development Council

Melissa gave a brief overview of agency:

- Offices in both Ithaca and Cortland
- Services offered: Child Care Resources and Referral, Family Support Services, Teen Pregnancy and Parent Program, and Warm Line.
- Home visiting services through Family Support Services and Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Program.
- TP3, funded in part by Youth Services Dept, works with pregnant or parenting teens up to the age of 21. Help meet basic needs and transportation as needed. Work with participants to set and reach goals in areas of education, parenting, health, employment and housing. Once the participant ages out of the TP3 Program, they can move onto the Family Support Services Program. This program works with participants ages 22 and older with children up to the age of 5.
- These programs work with the families on a one-to-one basis, services are free and are child-centered.
- Due to the pandemic, services are now being done remotely. It hasn't been easy, but staff are dedicated and committed to the families they serve.
- Child care – stretched even more now with pandemic. Child care providers are facing hard times: reduced capacity, reduced staffing, strict guidelines to adhere to, but increased costs due to necessary PPE, supplies, equipment, etc. Many had to rework their space, add partitions, new air purification systems, etc. Some were just not able to stay open.
- Approximately 90% of the child care centers are now open, however, only about 1/3 of those needing care can be served.
- CARES Act funding has helped, there has been 3 rounds of the funding. Funding has helped with child care costs, salaries, grants for food, supplies, PPE, building equipment needed, etc.
- At the beginning of the COVID pandemic there was an increased and continuing need for diapers, supplies, and formula. With mostly local funding (United Way, Park, FEMA, Community Foundation, and

community donations), the Child Development Council established the Baby Supplies Drive. It is held every Thursday and it's free. Families can get items such as: diapers, formula, baby food, books, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, masks, hygiene items, and books. To date, over 50,000 diapers and 6,000+ meals alone have been handed out.

- Pat – with home visits all being virtual, there is a real concern kids will be falling through the cracks. Melissa – share the same concern, staff are doing the best they can, continuing to build relationships and trust; trying to have youth be involved in the virtual meetings whenever possible, seeing them, talking with them, etc.
- Meghan – are there any services or help for Child Care workers? Most are barely making living wage and working long hours. Melissa – not particularly, agency advocates for child care providers, staff and increased wages. Struggle between keeping child care costs low and affordable, providing safe, reliable, and creditable child care while balancing the need to pay their workers a good wage.

Checklist Accountability Overview

Kate reviewed the Municipal Planning Group Vitality & Accountability Assessment

- A working tool used with commissions and councils; meant to be used as a guide to help them towards structure and organization; not meant as an evaluation.
- Six areas of focus: Group structure & governance, Organization, meetings & leadership, Planning, Oversight, guidance & accountability, Advocacy & coordination, and Youth leadership & voice.
- Being reviewed and discussed with every planning group or at least a subset of that group.
- Each group is different and will therefore have different goals, focus and or approaches.
- Could be used with our board as well.

Board discussion

Members attending local meetings:

Patty has been attending the Danby Council meetings for months and has found them very interesting and helpful. Attending the meetings has been helpful, keeping her more involved and informed about the community.

Patty asked if other Board members were willing to also attend their local commission/council meetings? Doesn't have to be every month. What are the barriers to you attending? What's making you hesitant?

Khaki asked if there is a way we can make it easier for members. Is there a way to put together a shared calendar with the meeting dates, times and zoom links?

Kate agreed a shared calendar could be put together and will look into having this created. However, the zoom links are not set up as being the same every month. If a board member is interested in attending a meeting, let one of us in the department know and we can be sure you receive the correct link for the meeting. We will also start putting reminders at the bottom of every month's Board agenda. Minutes can also be made available to those who would like to receive them.

MYSS Overview presentation:

Marnie thought the presentation Kate did at the January meeting was very good. She thinks people in her and other communities would also find it helpful. She asked that this presentation be posted on the department website.

RHY update:

The Village at Ithaca is in the process of completing a Funding Application for Runaway and Homeless Youth funding. Application is due March 1st.

Meeting adjourned: 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Theresa Albert